## New York, New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, NYPL Spencer 050

*Description:*Medici Aesop ff. ii + 75 + ii - Bound, s. XIX, in brown morocco leather over pasteboard by C. Smith; gold-stamped with Grolieresque interlace ornament. Gilt fore edge. - Medici arms on f. 68. Erroneously (?), Rev. Theodore Williams at Sotheby's, 5 April 1827. Possibly, Rev. Henry Joseph Thomas Drury (1778-1841), Sotheby's, 19 Feb. 1827; Sir Thomas Phillipps, MS 23609; purchased at Sotheby's 1 July 1946, lot 26a. - J. Kaimowitz & B. McTigue, "Illuminated Florentine MS of Aesop's..." Bull. of the NYPL82, 2 (1979). Fahy & McTigue, The Medici Aesop(1989). J.J.G. Alexander, The Painted Page(1994) 130-1. - Jonathan J. G. Alexander, James H. Marrow and Lucy Freeman Sandler, The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the New York Public Library(London / Turnhout: The New York Public Library / Harvey Miller Publishers, 2005) n. 100

*Notes:*-According to J. Kaimowitz, the ms. originally had at least 134 ff; the first 54 and 5 subsequent folios are missing. Piero de' Medici, Lorenzo's son, owned "a" Greek Aesop with miniatures (his inventory, 1495).

*Acknowledgments:* - We thank Prof. Jonathan J. G. Alexander esp. for his expertise on the art; Dr. N. Kavrus-Hoffmann has studied the Greek text.

*Number of Parts:* 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 6

*Direct Link:* http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLSpencer050_42

*Language:* Greek *Country:* Italy *Century:* 15th

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### Part 1: ff. 1-75v

*Description:* - Parchment - 200 x 119 mm - 20 lines on pages without miniatures; interlinear space 6mm, ruled in drypoint, some prickings visible. 5 single folios (signed stigma, i.e. first five quires & part of 6th now missing), followed by seven quinternions.

*Country:* Italy

*Cardinal point:*

*Region:* Tuscany

*City:* Florence

*Assigned Date:* s. XV$^{4/4}$

*Searchable Date Range:* 1475 - 1499

*Dated by scribe:* No

*Inscribed Date:*

*Document:* No

*Number of Scribes:* ;1

*Scribe(s):* Demetrios Damilas

*Script:* Humanistic

*Artist(s):* Mariano del BuonoMaster of the Hamilton Xenophon

*Figurative Decoration:* 135 (of an original 146?) miniatures illustrating the fables. Figures in border on f. 1.

*Other Decoration:* 6-line gold opening initial on red and gold field. 3-line gold initials on red, green and blue fields. Border design in each left border; opening page with 3-margin border. Rubrics.

*Notes:* Apparently copied from the edition printed in Milan, ca. 1480, by Bono Accursio; the scribe was living in Florence ca. 1478-90, and refers to himself as Demetrios Damilas, "Librarius florentinus"; 54 folios with Planudes' Life of Aesop possibly once at beginning of codex. Some damage from damp in the lower margins. Greek

*Number of Texts:* 2

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#### Text 1: ff. 1-40, 41-75; f. 75v blank

*Author:* Aesop

*Title:* Fables

*Language(s):* Greek

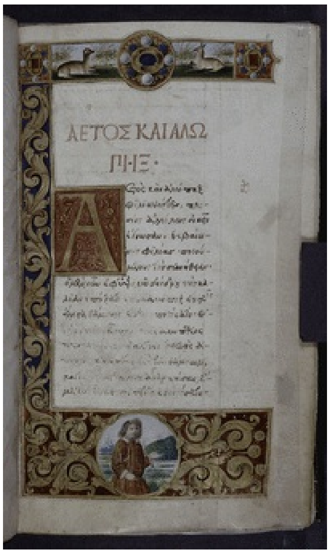
*Incipit:* Ἀετὸς καὶ ἀλώπηξ φιλιωθέντες

*Explicit:* τοιαύτης ἀπονέμουσι χάριτας (end of fable Λύκος καὶ Γέρανος)

*Notes:* The Vita Aesopiprobably once on the first 54 folios, now missing; 134 complete and 6 partial fables are conserved, and 7 lost (27, 43, 67, 69, 78, 79, 145) with lacunae between ff. 16v-17, 24v-25, 36v-37, 73v-74.

*Acknowledgments:* Nadezhda Kavrus-Hoffmann, "Catalogue of Greek Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the Collections of the United States of America. Part II: The New York Public Library," Manuscripta50.1 (2006) 21-76, here 63-68.

*Status of text:* Incomplete



*f. 1* Historiated border including deer at rest, jewels, and, in the medallion in the lower border, an author portrait of Aesop as somewhat deformed; space reserved for miniature filled in by rubric.

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*f. 6v* Fable of the Fox and the Bramble as a female-headed bush.

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*f. 30v* Fable of the Wild Boar, sharpening his tusk on a millstone, and the Fox.

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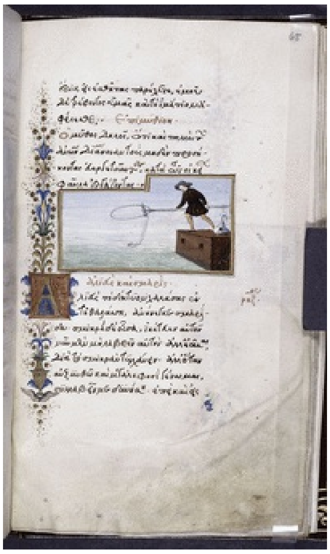

*f. 65* Fable of the Fisherman and the Minnow, who entreats for his life because he is so worthlesslly small.

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*f. 68* Fable of the Dog who came to Dinner, with the server setting the table, and many dogs wander about the room. On a wellhead within the miniature is the Medici coat of arms.

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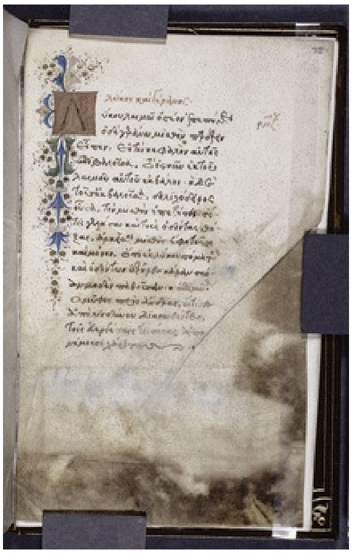

*f. 75* Hair follicles on the parchment; damaged leaf. Explicit of text.

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**Text 2:** f. 40r-v
*Author:* Ignatios the Deacon
*Title:* Tetrasticha iambica
*Language(s):* Greek
*Incipit:* Σῦς εἷλκε τις μῦν, ἔργον
*Explicit:* ὅτι τὸ ἀμφίβολον//
*Notes:* Bk 1, poem 8: Σῦς καὶ μῦς; Bk 1, poem 19: Ὄνος; Bk 1, poem 22: Στρουθὸς. Lacuna between ff. 40v and 41r:Ἐπιθύμιον, Ὁ μῦθος δηλοῖ ὅτι τὸ ἀμφίβολον// χελιδὼν καὶ κορώνη
*Status of text:* Ends defectively.



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